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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Sues Computer Screen Makers for Price Fixing

CHARLESTON – West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw today filed suit against the world's largest manufacturers of thin-film transistor liquid crystal display panels (LCDs), alleging that the companies conspired to fix the prices of their products.

The Attorney General claims the defendants – Taiwanese, Korean and Japanese companies – conspired to prevent competition and to increase prices for LCD panels used in popular electronic devices such as desktop computer monitors, laptop computer screens, and flat panel televisions.

"The price fixing of LCD panels, which are essential to our electronic economy, is intolerable," McGraw stated. "This massive conspiracy resulted in artificially and illegally inflated prices of LCD panels at the expense of West Virginia taxpayers."

West Virginia filed the lawsuit today in federal court in the Northern District of California in cooperation with the Attorneys General from Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, and Michigan.

Defendants named in the suit include electronic goods manufacturers: AU Optronics Corp.; AU Optronics Corp. America; Chimei Innolux Corp.; CMO Japan Co., Ltd.; Chi Mei Optoelectronics USA, Inc.; HannStar Display Corp.; Hitachi Ltd.; Hitachi Displays, Ltd.; Hitachi Electronic Devices USA, Inc.; LG Display Co., Ltd.; LG Display America Inc.; Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.; Samsung Electronics America, Inc.; Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.; Sharp Corporation; and Sharp Electronics Corp.

The suit claims that the defendants organized the conspiracy at the highest level of their organizations, in various secret meetings and telephone conversations over a period of years. Several of the companies have already pled guilty to criminal price-fixing charges, paying more than \$890 million in criminal fines to the United States Department of Justice.

West Virginia consumers can file complaints or alert the Attorney General's Office to unfair or deceptive practices by calling the Consumer Protection Hot Line, 1-800-368-8808, or by obtaining a complaint form from the consumer web page at www.wvago.gov. For regular consumer news updates, follow the AGO on Facebook and Twitter.

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